



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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1 MARCH 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
1 MARCH 1966

1. Ghana

Two Ghanaian-owned IL-18 aircraft began loading Soviet personnel in Accra this afternoon. Some 192 Russians are expected to leave the country by the end of the day. The new regime has also moved against the East Germans. Their trade mission has been told to close up shop and get its personnel out of the country as soon as possible.

Elsewhere the situation is largely unchanged. Ghana's delegates were allowed to take their seats today at the meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa but later a dispute arose over their credentials. They still think that they will be able to hold their own.

Nkrumah's foreign minister, Quaison-Sackey, flew into London this morning. He has apparently defected. Nkrumah himself at last report was still under wraps in Moscow.

2. Zambia

Kaunda is having more trouble with the white copper miners. Several hundred of these skilled workers are now off the job protesting the government's "no strike" decree which followed the wildcat walkouts of last month. The embassy believes Kaunda is overreacting in these situations and that his heavy-handed tactics may bring on a wholesale exodus of the crucial white labor force.

3. Soviet Union

The two Soviet Venus probes reached the planet, but at least one of them apparently failed to collect data. The Soviets admit that Venus 3 crash landed and that they were unable to communicate with it during the last part of the flight. It is doubtful therefore that Venus 3 transmitted any information on the Venusian atmosphere.

Moscow says that Venus 2 flew by the planet at a distance of only 13,000 miles. The probe was probably equipped to make a number of physical measure-

Since the Soviets are silent on this score, it is possible that Venus 2 also suffered a communications failure.

The Soviet lunar probe this morning was unsuccessful. Moscow is trying to cover this up by calling it a routine scientific satellite.

4. Soviet Union

The huge space launching facility at Tyuratam, described in yesterday's Brief, provides the Soviets with means for a greatly expanded space program. Some of the implications of the latest satellite photography of this complex are examined in today's Annex.

5. Indonesia

The army leaders are mulling over a number of moves to help them recoup their political losses

. The first step may be an "ultimatum"--perhaps on Thursday--telling Sukarno to get rid of Subandrio. This conceivably could bring a showdown, but it is more likely that the military would simply acquiesce in the face of another turndown by the president.

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6. Vietnam

Peking has reacted to the current debate in the US over the eventual status of the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front during negotiations and in any subsequent coalition government. A Chinese broadcast on Sunday made it clear that Peking does not believe the Viet Cong should settle for anything less than total control of the government in Saigon.

The idea that the Front could play the role of a "minority group" in a coalition government is nothing but a "trick," according to the broadcast. It went on to express confidence that the Front would never fall for it.

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7. North Vietnam

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8. Laos

Government troops operating with air support in the southern part of the country have failed to dislodge Communist forces from several positions which they overran last week. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] there have been sizable casualties on both sides. Communist probes in the area are apparently part of the over-all effort in the panhandle to keep the government from mounting operations against the infiltration corridor.

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9. Philippines

The Marcos government gave in to Indonesian pressure and decided not to recognize Malaysia today. The president still seems committed to the idea, however, and Djakarta's threats will probably only delay the action.

10. Syria

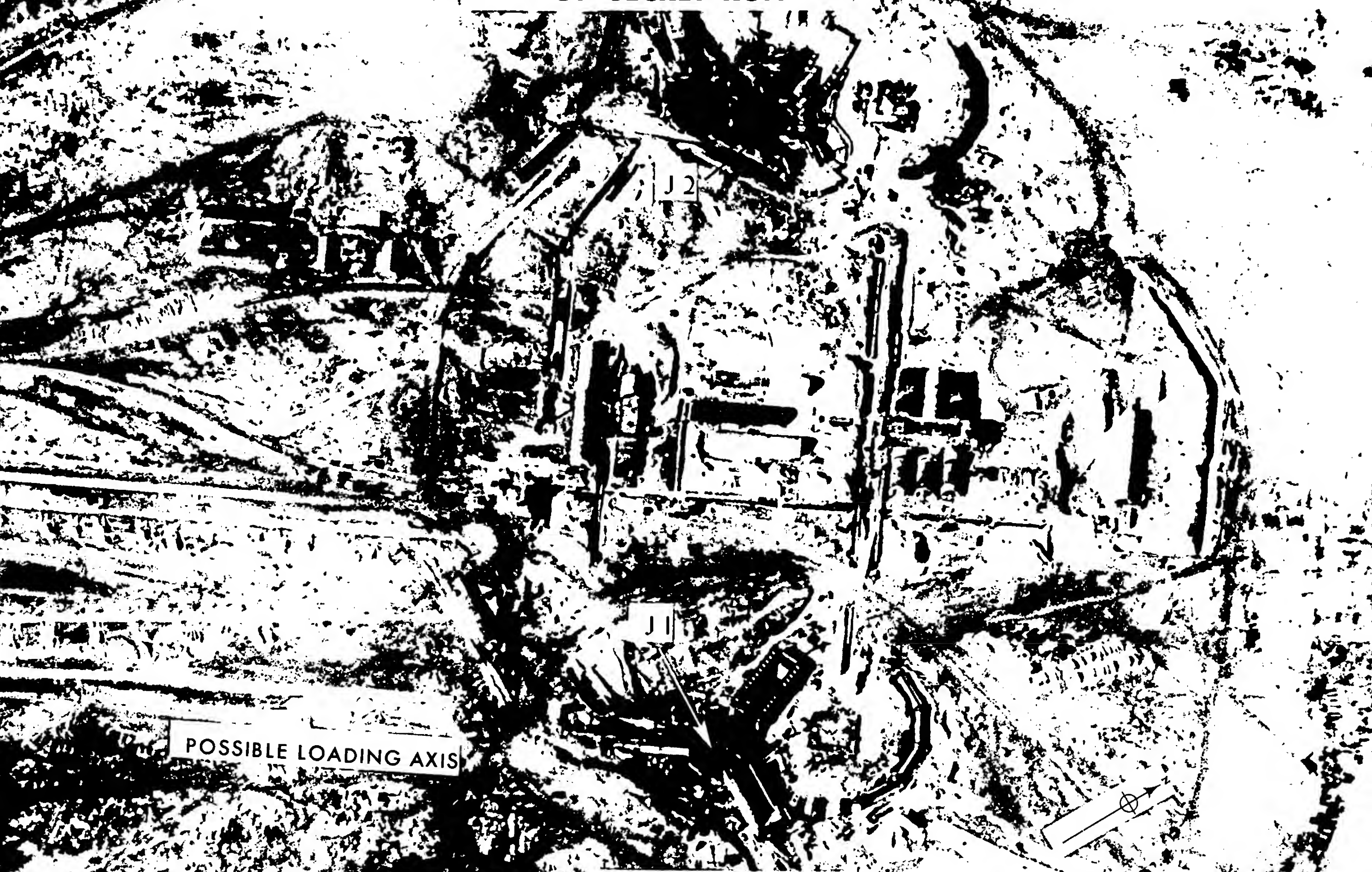
The embassy has new and good reports of a split within the army leadership. Fighting among the military forces and outbreaks affecting the civilian population could come at any time.

The government announced a new 19-man cabinet today. At least one is a member of the Syrian Communist Party.

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TYURATAM



"LAUNCH PADS J1 and J2"

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ANNEX

New Developments in the Soviet Space Program

The Soviets have been investing very heavily in the immense space launch Complex J at their Tyuratam missile test center. Construction was initiated in mid-1963 and has continued on a high-priority basis without interruption. The complex is now expected to become partially operational by the end of this year. The first launchings could take place early next year.

The most recent photographs of the two launch pads in Complex J (see attached  sketch)  The nature and the size of the construction now indicate that the pads could handle space boosters developing thrusts as great as ten million pounds. By comparison, the Saturn V booster to be used in the US Apollo program develops 7.5 million pounds of thrust. The largest Soviet booster launched to date had a thrust estimated at between 2.5 and three million pounds.

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It will be possible to estimate more precisely the size of the booster once the gantry is built. Gantry tracks some 60 feet wide are now being installed between the launch sites and the massive missile assembly building some two miles away.

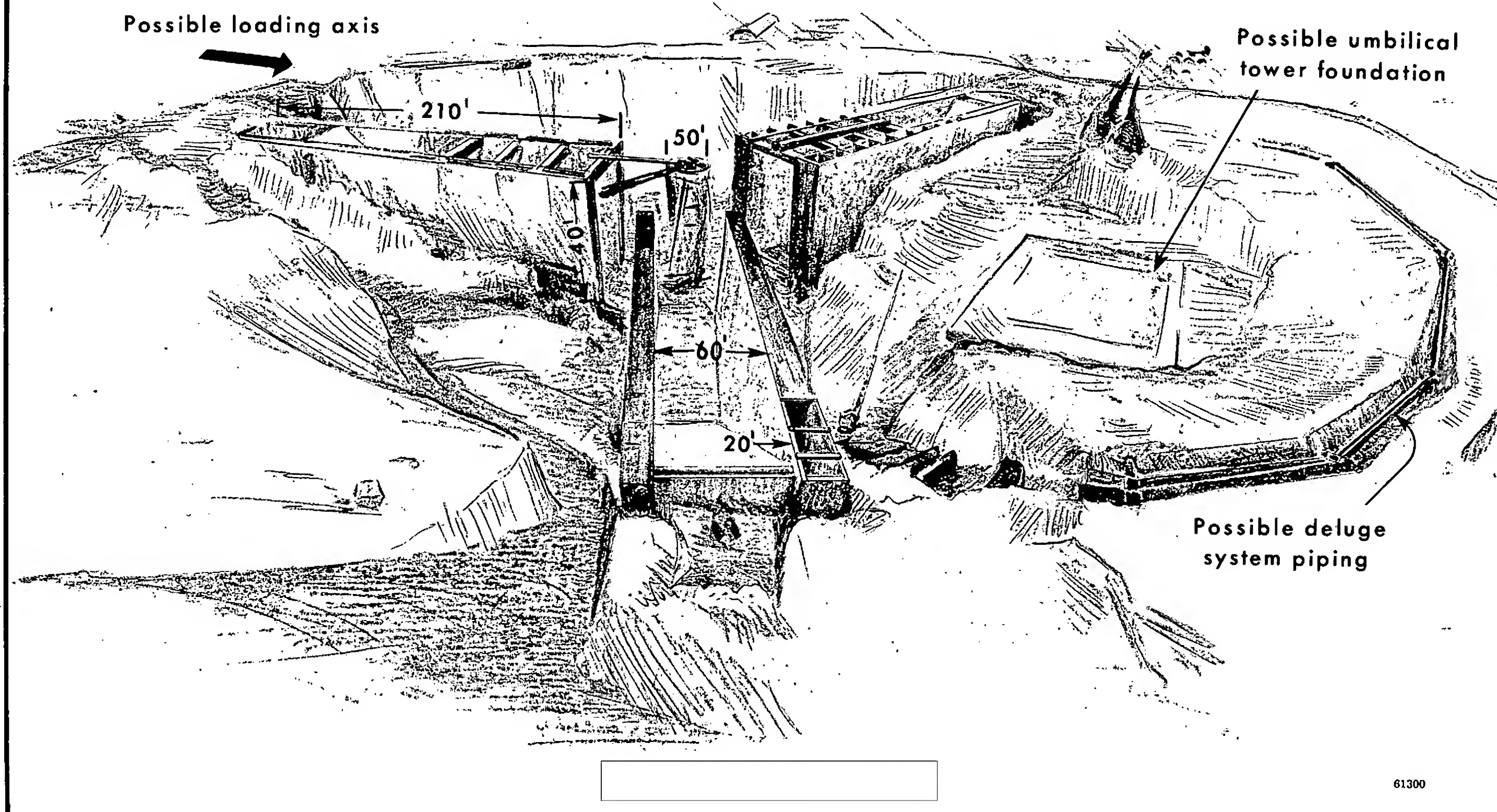
The twin launch pads are spaced only 1,700 feet apart. This suggests that the Soviets plan an unhurried launching program that does not require having two assembled boosters in place at the same time.

Housing facilities at Complex J provide an indication of the large number of personnel to be involved in the programs planned there. There is a "high-quality" apartment house project that could accommodate some 5,000 people and a barracks area with about the same capacity.

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TYURATAM
SKETCH OF PAD J I



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ANNEX (Cont'd)

It is impossible at this point, of course, to be sure of the objectives of the space program planned for Complex J. The following would be among the feasible possibilities: manned lunar landings, sophisticated planetary probes, and the orbiting of large, manned space stations.

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